

NSC BRIEFING

27 July 1954

INDOCHINA

- I. With the cease-fire, Viet Minh will merely switch emphasis from military campaign to political. In a national estimate now being prepared, we take the view that Communists will not deliberately break the cease-fire but will probably try to win all Indochina by political and military activities short of overt aggression.
- A. Day after agreement signed, Ho announced southern Vietnam is "inseparable part of our nation's territory" promised people in south they would be liberated.
- B. General Giap in order of the day declared that south only temporarily in French hands.
- C. No public reference to plans for Laos and Cambodia,

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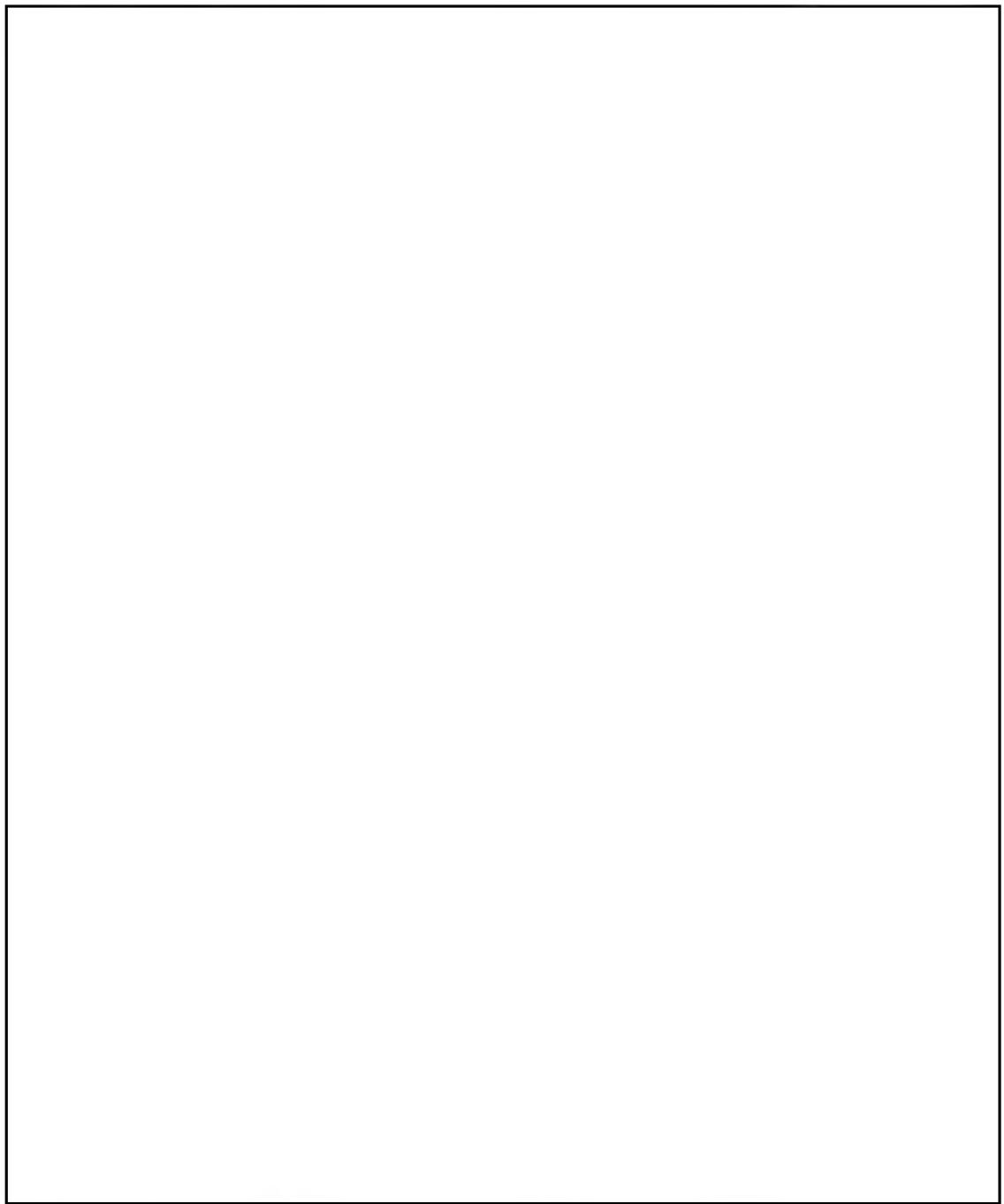
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- D. Covert military assistance between Viet Minh zone in North Vietnam and dissidents in Cambodia, Laos could be considered violation of Art. 19 of cease-fire agreement for Vietnam, which bars either zone in Vietnam from adherence to any "military alliance."

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II. Outlook in the south, in our estimate, depends largely on success of French and Vietnamese efforts to establish a strong nationalist government.

- A. Possibility of prompt French action appears remote.
- B. Unless previous French policy reversed, situation there will almost certainly deteriorate during next year or so.
- C. Agreement, between French and Viet Minh commands, gives no status to government at Saigon.
- D. Viet Minh can argue they are only government in Vietnam and France's declared willingness to withdraw forces at government's request means at Viet Minh request.

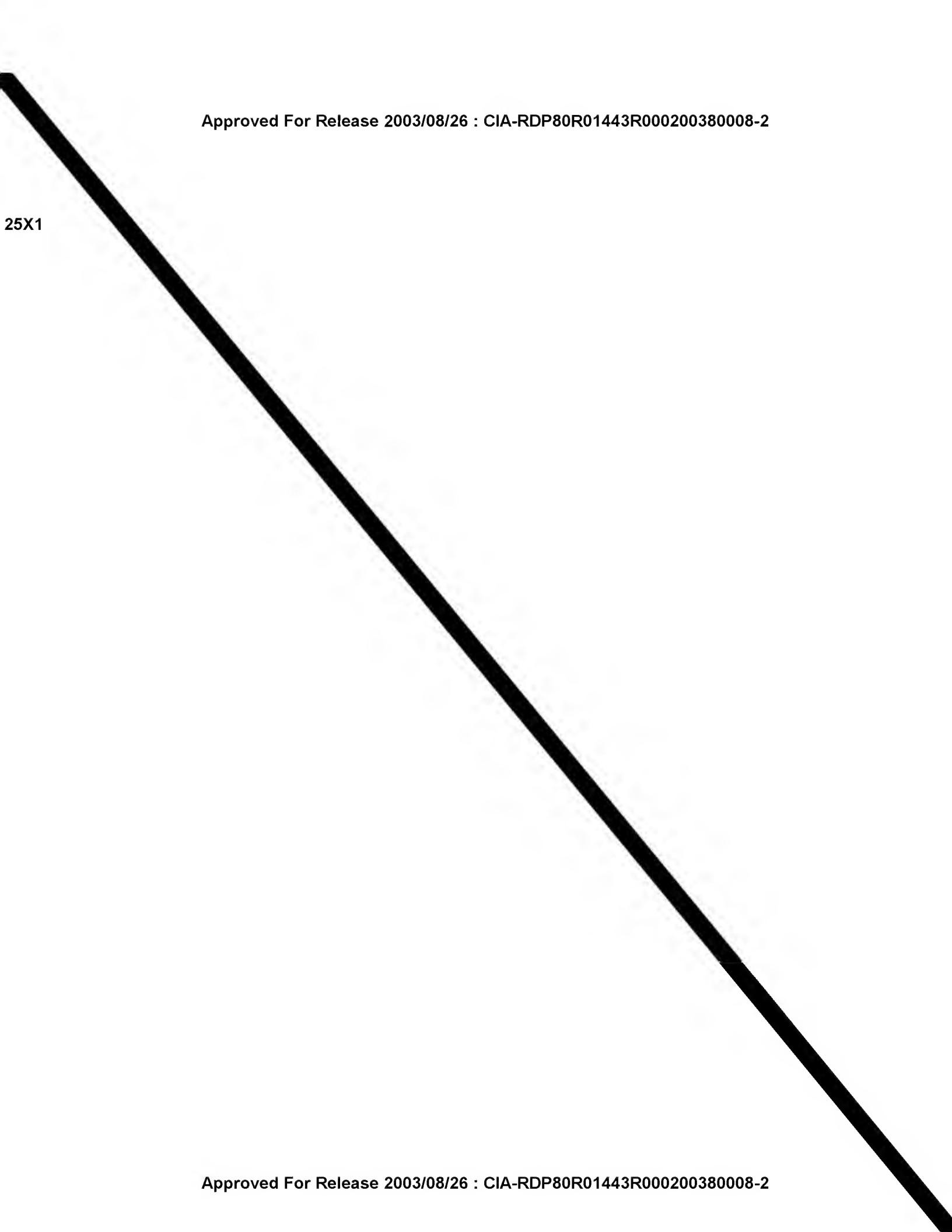
III. Viet Minh military activity between 21 July and effective cease-fire dates apparently intended as "show of force" to impress population.

- A. New activity near Nhatrang deep in southern zone.
- B. No violations of agreements reached by Joint French-Vietnamese Commission at Trung Gia.

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